# NATURAL WOODS—

## AND HOW TO FINISH THEM.

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# PREFACE.

WHATEVER of value may be found in the hints and directions given herein, is in no way impaired because we suggest the use of BERRY BROTHERS' FINISHES. The staining, shellacing, filling, etc., as the case may be, are the necessary preludes to a successful finish, whatever varnishes may be used to finish with, and the mode of applying and manipulating all interior varnishes is substantially the same.

The scope of our pamphlet is limited, merely aiming to give such brief but practical hints on the finishing of the woods most commonly used for interiors, as may sometimes serve to refer to when writing specifications. Should there be but one out of a class that has shown such appreciative recognition of the merits of our productions who is benefited by anything we may have written, our aim will have been accomplished.

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# THE MATERIALS

# HARD OIL FINISH.

THERE is but little doubt that to this useful finishing material the general adoption of natural wood finishing for interiors is largely due.

Its mission is to develop and preserve the natural grain of the wood, and impart a finish at once artistic, elegant and permanent.

HARD OIL FINISH was originated by us; we christened it, and are, and always have been, the sole manufacturers of it.

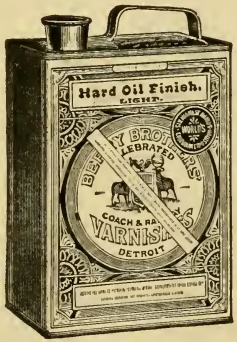
It is made in four shades, White, Light, Walnut and Ebony, and there is no limit to its utility for general interior finishing purposes. The "White" can be used on such light woods as white maple, white holly, or any of the delicate tints of porcelain enamel, without darkening them ; the "Light" is suitable for such woods as oak, ash, chestnut, sycamore, etc.; the "Walnut" is for dark woods, while the "Ebony" is intended for ebonized work.

We desire most particularly to emphasize the fact that there is no job of interior finishing too fine to permit of the use of HARD OIL FINISH. It is equal to

any and all emergencies ; be the wood what it may and however important the job, HARD OIL FINISH will produce the finest results, in the way of a finish, attainable on wood.

By reason of the numerous imitations of HARD OIL FINISH, many of which are absolutely worthless, and all of which differ radically from the genuine goods, specifications should always be made to read "BERRY BROTHERS' HARD OIL FINISH."

It is put up in *sealed cans only* up to 5 gallons ; the illustration given below being a reduced fac simile of a one gallon can.



# ELASTIC FLOOR FINISH.

THE practice of dispensing with carpets and finishing floors in natural woods has become so popular that an imperative demand has arisen for a "Finish" possessing greater elasticity and wearing properties than any ordinary varnish.

ELASTIC FLOOR FINISH is devised to meet this want; it is an entirely reliable article for use on parquetry and natural wood floors, combining as it does the three great requisites in a floor finish, elasticity, toughness and durability.

As will readily be seen, its use on a floor is a very severe test on anything of the nature of a varnish, and in view of the unreliability of many of the articles offered for the purpose, too great care cannot be exercised in specifying.

ELASTIC FLOOR FINISH may be specified with confidence; many years practical use have demonstrated its value, and we offer it as the best article of its kind in the market.

# ELASTIC OUTSIDE FINISH.

THIS is intended for store fronts, outside doors, and other purposes, where the exposure is excessive, and will be found superior to anything of the kind hitherto offered.

It is made with special reference to durability under exposure to the weather, dries dust free quickly, and will make either a dead or brilliant finish. The official reports made on tests by the Master House Painters and Decorators Association of the United States on twenty-four different makes of outside varnishes, not only commended our ELASTIC OUTSIDE FINISH, but showed it to dry dust proof quicker than any other commended outside varnish tested.

The value of this feature is apparent.

# ELASTIC INTERIOR FINISH.

THIS is intended for such interior work as is subjected to severe exposure or usage. It has many of the characteristics of Hard Oil Finish, but is tougher and somewhat slower drying. It possesses great elasticity, combined with unusual durability, and will resist the action of hot water, soap, etc., longer than anything else we know of. It is peculiarly adapted for use on window sash and sills, bath rooms, inside blinds, etc., and is also especially suitable for such portions of the interior wood-work as are to be left with an unrubbed varnish finish.

We confidently offer ELASTIC INTERIOR FINISH as the best article of its kind yet introduced.

# OAK, ASH, CHESTNUT.

These are open grained woods and require filling. SPECIFY AS FOLLOWS :

For an Egg Shell Gloss :—One coat of filler to match the color of the wood, followed by one coat of White Shellac sandpapered to a smooth surface, and two or three coats of Berry Brothers' (White or Light) Hard Oil Finish ; rub first coats with hair cloth or curled hair, and the last coat with pulverized pumice stone and raw linseed oil.

For a Dull Finish :—Specify that the last coat be rubbed with pulverized pumice stone and water, instead of oil.

For a Polished Finish :—Specify that the last coat be rubbed first with pulverized pumice stone and water, and then with pulverized rotten stone and water, and for a *piano finish* specify a further rubbing with Berry Brothers' Furniture Polish, used with a little pulverized rotten stone, applied with a piece of soft felt or flannel.

If a rubbed finish is not desired, omit the specifications for rubbing the last coat.

## NOTES.

THE term "Antique" is rather ambiguous now-a-days, as it has no universally recognized standard of color, and the so-called "Antique" finish has considerable latitude as to shade.

The "Antique" effect is produced by using a light filler colored with burnt umber, the amount of umber used in the filler determining the color.

"English" Oak, which is popular with many, is produced by first lightly coating the wood with a thin mixture made up of Asphaltum, Japan and Spirits of Turpentine in equal parts, followed by a coat of light filler colored with Vandyke Brown.

By reference to these notes the specifications can be modified to suit nearly all requirements.

# MAHOGANY.

THIS belongs to the open grained woods and requires filling.

SPECIFY AS FOLLOWS :

FOR AN EGG SHELL GLOSS :—One coat of filler to match the color of the wood, followed by a coat of Orange Shellac sandpapered to a smooth surface, and two or three coats of Berry Brothers' (White or Light) Hard Oil Finish ; rub first coats with hair cloth or curled hair, and the last coat with pulverized pumice stone and raw linseed oil.

FOR A DULL FINISH :—Specify that the last coat be rubbed with pulverized pumice stone and water, instead of oil.

FOR A POLISHED FINISH :—Specify that the last coat be rubbed first with pulverized pumice stone and water, and then with pulverized rotten stone and water, and for a *piano finish* specify a further rubbing with Berry Brothers' Furniture Polish, used with a little pulverized rotten stone, applied with a piece of soft felt or flannel.

If a rubbed finish is not desired, omit the specifications for rubbing the last coat.

---

## NOTES.

IF it is required to deepen the natural color of Mahogany, it can be done by using a light filler

darkened with burnt sienna to the desired tint.

If antique or dark Mahogany is required, precede the filling by staining the wood with a solution of bi-chromate of potash and water, or a coat of Berry Brothers' Mahogany Oil Stain.

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## PRIMA VERA OR WHITE MAHOGANY.

THIS wood is open grained and must be filled.

SPECIFY AS FOLLOWS:

FOR AN EGG SHELL GLOSS:—One coat of filler to match the color of the wood, followed by one coat of White Shellac sandpapered to a smooth surface and two or three coats of Berry Brothers' White Hard Oil Finish; rub first coats with hair cloth or curled hair, and the last coat with pulverized pumice stone and raw linseed oil.

FOR A DULL FINISH:—Specify that the last coat be rubbed with pulverized pumice stone and water, instead of oil.

FOR A POLISHED FINISH:—Specify that the last coat be rubbed first with pulverized pumice stone and water, and then with pulverized rotten stone and water, and for a *piano finish* specify a further rubbing

with Berry Brothers' Furniture Polish, used with a little pulverized rotten stone, applied with a piece of soft felt or flannel.

If a rubbed finish is not desired, omit the specifications for rubbing the last coat.

---

## CHERRY.

THIS is a close grained wood and requires no filling. SPECIFY AS FOLLOWS:

FOR AN EGG SHELL GLOSS:—One coat of Orange Shellac sandpapered to a smooth surface, followed by two or three coats of Berry Brothers' (White or Light) Hard Oil Finish; rub first coats with hair cloth or curled hair, and the last coat with pulverized pumice stone and raw linseed oil.

FOR A DULL FINISH:—Specify that the last coat be rubbed with pulverized pumice stone and water, instead of oil.

FOR A POLISHED FINISH:—Specify that the last coat be rubbed first with pulverized pumice stone and water, and then with pulverized rotten stone and water, and for a *piano finish* specify a further rubbing with Berry Brothers' Furniture Polish, used with a

little pulverized rotten stone, applied with a piece of soft felt or flannel.

If a rubbed finish is not desired, omit the specifications for rubbing the last coat.

---

## NOTES.

ALTHOUGH Cherry is a very beautiful wood in its natural state, some tastes may prefer a deeper color, which necessitates the staining of the wood to the desired shade. In such cases precede the Shellac coat with a coat of Berry Brothers' Oil Stain, Cherry or Mahogany, as may be desired.

If the wood is required to be finished up as light as possible, specify White Shellac instead of Orange Shellac and omit staining.

---

# SYCAMORE.

THIS wood is usually quarter sawed for finishing purposes; it is almost invariably finished in the natural color, and being close grained, needs no filler.

SPECIFY AS FOLLOWS:

FOR AN EGG SHELL GLOSS:—One coat of Shellac, (White Shellac if the natural color of the wood is

to be preserved, or Orange Shellac if the wood is desired to be a little darker in tone,) sandpaper to a smooth surface and follow with two or three coats of Berry Brothers' (White or Light) Hard Oil Finish; (specify White Hard Oil Finish if the natural color of the wood is to be retained;) rub first coats with hair cloth or curled hair, and the last coat with pulverized pumice stone and raw linseed oil.

For a Dull Finish :—Specify that the last coat be rubbed with pulverized pumice stone and water, instead of oil.

For a Polished Finish :—Specify that the last coat be rubbed first with pulverized pumice stone and water, and then with pulverized rotten stone and water, and for a *piano finish* specify a further rubbing with Berry Brothers' Furniture Polish, used with a little pulverized rotten stone, applied with a piece of soft felt or flannel.

If a rubbed finish is not desired, omit the specifications for rubbing the last coat.

# MAPLE.

THIS is close grained and does not require filling.

SPECIFY AS FOLLOWS:

FOR AN EGG SHELL GLOSS:—One coat of White Shellac sandpapered to a smooth surface, followed by two or three coats of Berry Brothers' White Hard Oil Finish; rub first coats with hair cloth or curled hair, and the last coat with pulverized pumice stone and raw linseed oil.

FOR A DULL FINISH:—Specify that the last coat be rubbed with pulverized pumice stone and water, instead of oil.

FOR A POLISHED FINISH:—Specify that the last coat be rubbed first with pulverized pumice stone and water, and then with pulverized rotten stone and water, and for a *piano finish* specify a further rubbing with Berry Brothers' Furniture Polish, used with a little pulverized rotten stone, applied with a piece of soft felt or flannel.

If a rubbed finish is not desired, omit the specifications for rubbing the last coat.

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## NOTES.

MAPLE is susceptible of very rich effects in Cherry and Mahogany by staining. If stained, specify Orange Shellac, and precede the Shellac coat with a coat of Berry Brothers' Oil Stain, Cherry or Mahogany, as may be desired.

# BIRCH.

THIS is a close grained wood and needs no filling.

SPECIFY AS FOLLOWS:

FOR AN EGG SHELL GLOSS:—One coat of White Shellac sandpapered to a smooth surface, followed by two or three coats of Berry Brothers' (White or Light) Hard Oil Finish; rub first coats with hair cloth or curled hair, and the last coat with pulverized pumice stone and raw linseed oil.

FOR A DULL FINISH:—Specify that the last coat be rubbed with pulverized pumice stone and water, instead of oil.

FOR A POLISHED FINISH:—Specify that the last coat be rubbed first with pulverized pumice stone and water, and then with pulverized rotten stone and water, and for a *piano finish* specify a further rubbing with Berry Brothers' Furniture Polish, used with a little pulverized rotten stone, applied with a piece of soft felt or flannel.

If a rubbed finish is not desired, omit the specifications for rubbing the last coat.

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## NOTES.

THE above specifications provide for finishing the wood in the natural color. If a deeper tone is

required specify Orange Shellac instead of White Shellac.

Birch also takes stain very nicely if the right kind is used. Cherry and Mahogany look particularly well on Birch. If stained specify Orange Shellac, and precede the Shellac coat with a coat of Berry Brothers' Oil Stain, Cherry, Mahogany, or otherwise, as may be desired.

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## WALNUT, BUTTERNUT.

BOTH of the above are open grained woods and require filling.

SPECIFY AS FOLLOWS:

FOR AN EGG SHELL GLOSS:—One coat of filler to match the color of the wood, followed by a coat of Orange Shellac sandpapered to a smooth surface, and two or three coats of Berry Brothers' (White or Light) Hard Oil Finish; rub first coats with hair cloth or curled hair, and the last coat with pulverized pumice stone and raw linseed oil.

FOR A DULL FINISH:—Specify that the last coat be rubbed with pulverized pumice stone and water, instead of oil.

FOR A POLISHED FINISH:—Specify that the last coat be rubbed first with pulverized pumice stone and

water, and then with pulverized rotten stone and water, and for a *piano finish* specify a further rubbing with Berry Brothers' Furniture Polish, used with a little pulverized rotten stone, applied with a piece of soft felt or flannel.

If a rubbed finish is not desired, omit the specifications for rubbing the last coat.

---

## GUM WOOD.

THIS is close grained and needs no filling.

SPECIFY AS FOLLOWS :

FOR AN EGG SHELL GLOSS :—One coat of Orange Shellac sandpapered to a smooth surface, followed by two or three coats of Berry Brothers' (White or Light) Hard Oil Finish ; rub first coats with hair cloth or curled hair, and the last coat with pulverized pumice stone and raw linseed oil.

FOR A DULL FINISH :—Specify that the last coat be rubbed with pulverized pumice stone and water, instead of oil.

FOR A POLISHED FINISH :—Specify that the last coat be rubbed first with pulverized pumice stone and

water, and then with pulverized rotten stone and water, and for a *piano finish* specify a further rubbing with Berry Brothers' Furniture Polish, used with a little pulverized rotten stone, applied with a piece of soft felt or flannel.

If a rubbed finish is not desired, omit the specifications for rubbing the last coat.

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## NOTES.

THE above specifications provide for finishing the wood in its natural color.

Gum Wood can also be stained quite successfully and looks very handsome when properly done. Mahogany and Cherry are the most popular stains for this wood. If stained, specify Orange Shellac, and precede the Shellac coat with a coat of Berry Brothers' Oil Stain, Mahogany, Cherry, or otherwise, as may be preferred.

---

# REDWOOD.

THIS is a close grained wood and needs no filling.

SPECIFY AS FOLLOWS:

FOR AN EGG SHELL GLOSS:—One coat of Orange Shellac sandpapered to a smooth surface, followed by

two or three coats of Berry Brothers' (White or Light) Hard Oil Finish ; rub first coats with hair cloth or curled hair, and the last coat with pulverized pumice stone and raw linseed oil.

For a Dull Finish :—Specify that the last coat be rubbed with pulverized pumice stone and water, instead of oil.

For a Polished Finish :—Specify that the last coat be rubbed first with pulverized pumice stone and water, and then with pulverized rotten stone and water, and for a *piano finish* specify a further rubbing with Berry Brothers' Furniture Polish, used with a little pulverized rotten stone, applied with a piece of soft felt or flannel.

If a rubbed finish is not desired, omit the specifications for rubbing the last coat.

---

## NOTES.

The above specifications provide for finishing the wood in the natural color.

If staining is required, precede the Shellac coat with a coat of Berry Brothers' Oil Stain, Mahogany, Cherry, or otherwise, as may be wished.

If it is desired to finish up the wood as light as possible, specify White Shellac instead of Orange Shellac and omit staining.

# CYPRESS.

THIS is a close grained wood and needs no filling.

SPECIFY AS FOLLOWS :

FOR AN EGG SHELL GLOSS :—One coat of White Shellac sandpapered to a smooth surface, followed by two or three coats of Berry Brothers' (White or Light) Hard Oil Finish ; rub first coats with hair cloth or curled hair, and the last coat with pulverized pumice stone and raw linseed oil.

FOR A DULL FINISH :—Specify that the last coat be rubbed with pulverized pumice stone and water, instead of oil.

FOR A POLISHED FINISH :—Specify that the last coat be rubbed first with pulverized pumice stone and water, and then with pulverized rotten stone and water, and for a *piano finish* specify a further rubbing with Berry Brothers' Furniture Polish, used with a little pulverized rotten stone, applied with a piece of soft felt or flannel.

If a rubbed finish is not desired, omit the specifications for rubbing the last coat.

---

## NOTES.

IF a little deeper tone than the natural color of the wood is desired, specify Orange Shellac instead of

White Shellac. Very rich effects can also be produced on Cypress by staining, individual taste governing the choice as to color.

If stained, specify Orange Shellac, and precede the Shellac coat with a coat of Berry Brothers' Oil Stain, Cherry, Mahogany, or otherwise, as may be desired.

---

## PINE.

This being a close grained wood needs no filling.
SPECIFY AS FOLLOWS :

For an Egg Shell Gloss :—One coat of Shellac (White Shellac if the natural color of the wood is to be preserved, or Orange Shellac if the wood is to be stained, or is desired to be darker in tone than the natural color,) sandpaper to a smooth surface, and follow with two or three coats of Berry Brothers' (White or Light) Hard Oil Finish ; (specify White Hard Oil Finish if it is desired to retain the natural color of White Pine ;) rub first coats with hair cloth or curled hair, and the last coat with pulverized pumice stone and raw linseed oil.

For a Dull Finish :—Specify that the last coat be rubbed with pulverized pumice stone and water, instead of oil.

For a Polished Finish :—Specify that the last coat be rubbed first with pulverized pumice stone and water, and then with pulverized rotten stone and water, and for a *piano finish* specify a further rubbing with Berry Brothers' Furniture Polish, used with a little pulverized rotten stone, applied with a piece of soft felt or flannel.

If a rubbed finish is not desired, omit the specifications for rubbing the last coat.

---

## NOTES.

The first coat of Shellac should never be omitted on Pine, as it serves to kill the sap or pitch, which might otherwise, in the course of time, ooze out and mar the finish.

If it is desired to retain the clear, bright color of Pine, never apply a first coat of linseed oil, as this will in time cause the wood to turn dark and present an unsightly appearance.

If the wood is to be stained, specify Orange Shellac and precede the Shellac coat with a coat of Berry Brothers' Oil Stain of the required shade.

It may be here remarked that Georgia or Southern Pine is much more susceptible of rich and beautiful effects by staining than is White Pine.

---

## WHITEWOOD OR POPLAR, HEMLOCK.

BOTH of these woods are close grained and need no filling.

SPECIFY AS FOLLOWS :

FOR AN EGG SHELL GLOSS :—One coat of White Shellac sandpapered to a smooth surface, followed by two or three coats of Berry Brothers' (White or Light) Hard Oil Finish ; rub first coats with hair cloth or curled hair, and the last coat with pulverized pumice stone and raw linseed oil.

FOR A DULL FINISH :—Specify that the last coat be rubbed with pulverized pumice stone and water instead of oil.

FOR A POLISHED FINISH :—Specify that the last coat be rubbed first with pulverized pumice stone and water, and then with pulverized rotten stone and water, and for a *piano finish* specify a further rubbing

with Berry Brothers' Furniture Polish, used with a little pulverized rotten stone, applied with a piece of soft felt or flannel.

If a rubbed finish is not desired, omit the specifications for rubbing the last coat.

---

## NOTES.

THESE specifications are for finishing the above woods in the natural color. If a deeper tone is desired specify Orange Shellac instead of White Shellac.

These woods are sometimes stained, individual taste dictating the shade or color.

When staining is desired, specify Orange Shellac, and precede the Shellac coat with a coat of Berry Brothers' Oil Stain of the required shade.

---

# FLOOR FINISHING.

FOR coarse or open grained woods,

SPECIFY AS FOLLOWS:

Fill with a good filler to match the color of the wood, wipe off clean, and apply two coats of Berry Brothers' Elastic Floor Finish, taking care that the first

coat is thoroughly hard before applying the second ; rub the second coat down with pulverized pumice stone and raw linseed oil, and then wipe the floor perfectly dry and clean, so that no trace of oil remains to catch the dirt.

For close grained woods specify as above, but omit the filler.

---

## OUTSIDE DOORS, STORE FRONTS, ETC.

FOR work of this character, if the finish is to be in natural woods,

SPECIFY AS FOLLOWS :

One coat of filler to match the color of the wood, followed by three or four coats of Berry Brothers' Elastic Outside Finish. Allow each coat to get thoroughly hard before applying another, and rub each coat, except the last, with hair cloth or curled hair. The last coat to be flowed on and left unrubbed.

---

### NOTES.

ONLY coarse or open grained woods need filling.

Elastic Outside Finish dries naturally to a bright gloss, and the above specification provides for an un-

rubbed or varnish finish, and, although this is very handsome, polishing or rubbing down improves the appearance and adds to the durability of the finish.

If a rubbed or polished surface is desired, rub the last coat with pulverized pumice stone, or pulverized rotten stone and oil or water, in the same manner as specified for Hard Oil Finish.

On new painted or grained work specify as above, and also add that all under coats must be thoroughly hard before applying the finish.

For old work the specifications should read the same as for new painted or grained work, but specify in addition that before finishing, the work be well sandpapered and cleaned.

It is of the utmost importance that each and every coat is thoroughly hard before applying another, as otherwise the finish is liable to crack.

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## WINDOW SASH AND SILLS, BATH ROOMS, INSIDE BLINDS, ETC.

THE wood should be shellaced, or filled, either, or both, according to the wood to be finished, in the same manner as heretofore described, and then receive two or three coats of Berry Brothers' Elastic

Interior Finish, applied and manipulated in the same manner as our Hard Oil Finish.

Refer to index for the wood to be finished, and word specifications in the manner shown, only substituting "Berry Brothers' Elastic Interior Finish" for "Hard Oil Finish."

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## REMARKS.

It will be noticed that in the directions for using our Hard Oil Finish, we invariably say, "White" or "Light" Hard Oil Finish. It is only absolutely necessary to use the "White" Hard Oil Finish, (which is almost colorless), when very light woods are to be finished in the natural color; in all other cases the "Light" may be used.

Whenever expense however is a secondary consideration, we always recommend the use of the White Hard Oil Finish on any wood as it is extra nice, and well repays the small additional cost per gallon.

If desired, the "Walnut" Hard Oil Finish can be used over dark or stained woods, although the only reason for using it in such cases is the lesser cost of

same. Walnut Hard Oil Finish can also be used over light colored woods when they are required to be darkened some, and staining is objected to.

It is the inevitable tendency of all woods to grow darker with age, but where it is desired to preserve the natural color of the wood as long as possible, it can be done by preceding the filling with a light coat of White Shellac. The reason for this is that oil or oil varnish applied directly to wood causes it to turn dark, but by applying a light coat of Shellac before the filler, the oil in the filler cannot penetrate the pores of the wood, which consequently retains its natural color longer than it otherwise would.

In cases where the wood is filled, the shellac coat may be omitted if desired, but no great economy is effected thereby as at least an additional coat of Hard Oil Finish (or other Finish) would be necessary to make up for such omission.

We make Stains in the following colors: Mahogany, Cherry, Light and Dark Oak, Rosewood, Walnut and Ebony, and can furnish them either in Oil, Spirit or Water.

Oil Stains possess many advantages over Water or Spirit Stains, and it will be noticed in the foregoing specifications that we mention Oil Stains exclusively. Our Water or Spirit Stains can, however, be substituted when desired.

Although we specify the use of raw linseed oil for rubbing with pulverized pumice stone or rotten stone, many finishers prefer the rubbing oil commonly used by furniture finishers, which answers the purpose equally as well.

We invite inquiries from any who may desire information on the finishing question, and as the inventors of Hard Oil Finish, and Varnish Manufacturers of nearly forty years experience, we may without affectation claim to be competent authority on the subject.

We keep on hand finished specimens of the various woods used for interior finishing purposes, which we will mail, post paid, to any address, or we will finish up any samples of wood that may be sent us for the purpose, returning same with explicit instructions as to the mode of finishing.

BERRY BROTHERS, LIMITED,

VARNISH MANUFACTURERS,

DETROIT.

# BERRY BROTHERS,

LIMITED.

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